

REMARKS

In the March 20, 2009 Office Action, all of pending claims 4-7 and 11-17 stand rejected in view of prior art. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the March 20, 2009 Office Action, Applicant has amended claims 5 and 14-16 as indicated above. Also, Applicant has cancelled claims 4, 7 and 13. Thus, claims 5, 6, 11, 12 and 14-17 are now pending, with claims 5 and 14 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Claims 5 and 14 have been amended to place these claims in independent form. Claim 7 has been cancelled in view of the cancellation of claim 4. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended to depend from claim 14 in view of the cancellation of claim 13. Since the various combinations of claim elements have been previously presented in claims 1-12 or 13-18, no new issues are raised by this Amendment.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

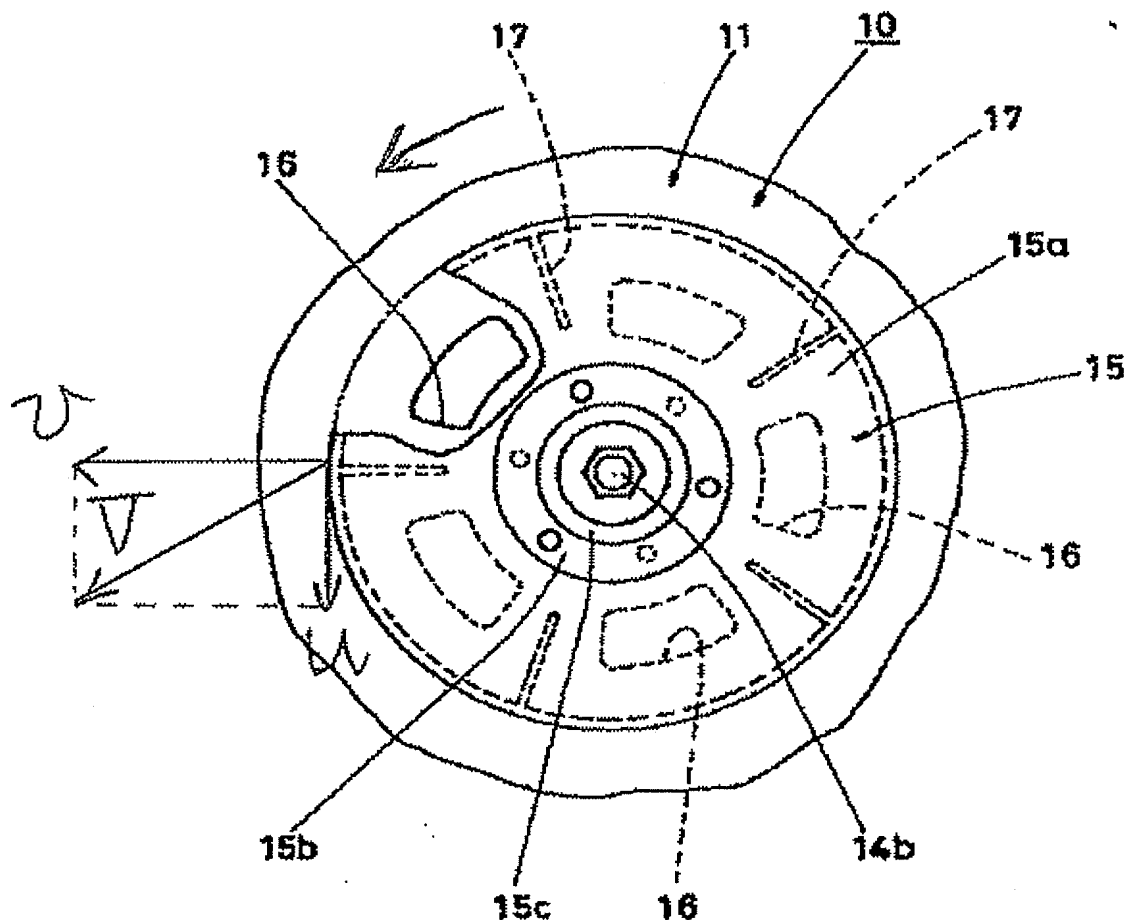
In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, claims 4-7 and 11-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-101194 (Sanagi). In response, Applicant traverses this rejection of claims 5, 6, 11, 12 and 14-17, as explained above. Claims 5 and 14 have been amended to place these claims in independent form as mentioned above.

Independent claims 5 and 14 require, *inter alia*, a centrifugal fan having a cover being coupled to said rotary shaft for rotation with said main plate covering said cooling air hole from the side opposite said electric motor, and being provided to rotate integrally with said main plate; said air guide being formed between said cover on an electric motor side thereof, and said main plate on the side opposite said electric motor; and ***said air guide having a blade shape inclined rearwards in the rotational direction of said cover.*** This arrangement is illustrated in at least Figures 11 and 12 of the instant application. Contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, this structure is ***not*** disclosed or suggested by the Sanagi publication or any other prior art of record.

The Office Action makes no mention of ***said air guide having a blade shape inclined***

rearwards in the rotational direction of said cover being shown in the Sanagi publication. In fact, in the Sanagi publication, the blades 17 extend radially, and are *not inclined rearwards in the rotational direction of said cover*. Similarly, the cover 15 in the Sanagi publication has a circular part (unnumbered) that is *not inclined rearwards in the rotational direction of said cover*. Furthermore, the arrangement of the radial blades 17 in the Sanagi publication makes it impossible for the air flow to flow in a counter-rotational direction according to the following explanation.

In case of the radial shape guide blades, the air flow is blown out radially with respect to the cover (refer to the velocity vector "v" in the figure below) by the radial shape guide blades. Therefore, the air flow has the velocity vector "V" that combines the velocity vector v and the velocity vector "u" corresponding to the rotational velocity of the cover. That is, velocity vector "V" inevitably has the revolving direction velocity.



Therefore, the Sanagi publication also cannot disclose or suggest and air guide that ***guides the air flow so that it is blown out toward the side of said main plate in the counter rotational direction when blown out from said cooling air hole to the side of said main plate opposite said electric motor***, as require by independent claims 5 and 14.

It is well settled under U.S. patent law that for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must disclose each and every element of the claim within the reference. Therefore, based on the above explanation, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 5 and 14 are not anticipated by the Sanagi publication or any other prior art of record. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection of independent claims 5 and 14 is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Applicant believes that dependent claims 6, 11, 12 and 15-17 are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claim 5 or 14, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, dependent claims 6, 11, 12 and 15-17 are further allowable because they include additional limitations, which in combination with the features of their respective independent claims, are not disclosed or suggested in the Sanagi publication or any other prior art of record. For example, claims 6 and 15 require ***said air guide has a volute blade shape***. Please note the following **Definitions of volute** on the Web:

- spiral: ornament consisting of a curve on a plane that winds around a center with an increasing distance from the center
- coil: a structure consisting of something wound in a continuous series of loops; "a coil of rope"
- coiling: in the shape of a coil
wordnet.princeton.edu/perl/webwn

It is well settled in U.S. patent law that words should be given their ordinary meaning, unless the specification provides some other different and/or modified definition. Thus, if the term "volute" is given its ordinary meaning, contrary to the assertion of the Office Action, such an arrangement of at least claims 6 and 15 cannot be disclosed or suggested by the Sanagi publication or any other prior art of record. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection of dependent claims 6, 11, 12 and 15-17 is also respectfully requested.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 5, 6, 11, 12 and 14-17 are now in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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